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with profit be used as foundation for comparative studies of the guilds in other places. It supplies a number of points not explained or much touched upon in Levasseur's exhaustive study, and should be found in every well-equipped library.

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La petite industrie contemporaine. By VICTOR BRANTS. Paris: Victor Lecoffre, 1902. 8vo, pp. viii + 230.

AS ONE of the volumes in a series on social economy, Professor Brants finds the scope of his present work on *La petite industrie contemporaine* strictly bounded by the fields assigned to his fellow writers. He has to deal with small industries proper as distinguished from agriculture; with industries, not incomes; with one aspect only of the middle classes of the present day. Some closely related subjects—as apprenticeship and technical education—are in other hands. With these limitations made clear—and the regret may be expressed in passing that the author curtails his space by so often recurring to these restrictions—M. Brants proceeds to set apart the small industry from the great by the essential question: “To whom belongs the direction, does it remain united to manual labor, or is it separated from it?” To this he adds a second deemed of equal social importance: “In what measure is labor united to capital, or is it separated from it?” Thence he sets out to learn whether the industrial transformation, the encroachment of the great industry, be as widespread as is sometimes claimed, whether its inroads be regular and general, at what cost the change is wrought, the character and number of the victims, and their claims to help and preservation. He reviews conditions and opinions in the European states where he finds these questions most stirring in Germany, Austria—whither he made three journeys for investigation—France, and his own country, Belgium. He studies his problem in the light of government statistics and of contemporaneous inquiry as well as through his own personal observation, and affords some compensation for his necessary *lacunae* in numerous references to recent works bearing upon certain phases of his subject.

It is needless to say that centralization and competition are found to stand in the forefront of the dangers threatening the small producer and the small dealer. Yet while granting frankly

the difficulties—the crisis even—through which the small trade is passing, the author believes that in Germany, as in France, statistics tend to show a very great mass of small industries. He claims that the enormous progress of the great industry in Germany is not always at the expense of the small, and that the slow recoil of the latter is varied by a positive advance along some lines. In the survival of so large a proportion of small enterprises in France, under conditions abundantly favorable to vast undertakings, he sees vitality and a promise of future life. But there are further dangers involving the small trades—competition within their own ranks, the desperate measures of those driven to the wall and working at any price; the “evil economic and moral” of the credit, long-drawn-out, exacted by the consumer; the sorry condition frequently found among journeymen and apprentices, and usually traceable to the poverty of the employer; the unhygienic surroundings where home and shop are confounded; and too often the lack of ambition, of technical education and commercial methods. There is a conviction, moreover, that the industrial and economic phases of the problem are inextricably interwoven with the social, and that among the evils that menace the small industries followed by the middle classes are the greed, the jealousy, the false pride—in short, under one form or another, the vices found in all other ranks of society.

The wants of these workers are many and difficult to satisfy. With the need for professional education arises the necessity for better tools, for capital, for credit. And everywhere M. Brants finds the lack of directors, leaders of men, not demagogues who excite, but capable workers possessed of thought, foresight, judgment, qualities the more rarely to be had because they quickly lift the man above the level of the small industry.

Yet the author, while offering no certain means of salvation, has deep faith in the prudent use of many of the measures devised for relief since the opening of the new industrial period. In the van, as a supplement to the school and to the training by apprenticeship, he places certain educational measures savoring of the qualities of school and shop—conferences for artisans, devoted to technical and commercial affairs, and held in connection with museums, permanent or circulating, for the display of the best mechanical devices; exhibitions—as developed and encouraged in Germany and Austria—of the work of apprentices—professional expositions, technical journals. In harmony with these efforts, Hainant has taken the ini-

tative in founding a normal course for professional teachers, a course associated with an industrial museum. It seems to draw its inspiration from the palmy days of *compagnonnage*, as does the movement in Germany, Austria and Switzerland in favor of a professional examination (*la preuve de capacité*) for the elevation of the trades and protection against incapables.

In the work of social reform Professor Brants would choose teachers in accordance with local needs, reaching the journeymen more easily through large assemblies, and the employers—far more difficult of access—through the church and the daily press. “For the artisan,” as he adds, “reads few books.”

In behalf of the patron's daughter a special training is coveted. Since a greater responsibility will devolve upon her than upon most other women, she should be educated not only for domestic life but for business life as well. To this end—that she may manage sales and accounts skilfully—the school for economic training (*l'école ménagère*) should be annexed to schools for her class.

For purposes of capital and commercial advantage, the author commends association, and points to German theories and practical attempts in these directions, to Austrian experiments, and to some few successes and failures in Belgium. Distinct from such co-operation of production, is the co-operative shop springing up at Zurich, at Vienna, and elsewhere, by which home workers (*ouvriers à domicile*) seek to improve their conditions. Through the co-operative shop, also, or by means of the aggregation of small shops under one roof, the small artisan may have the use of machinery and the power to run it. Back of all these co-operatives, enabling them to exist, should stand—and here and there does stand—the co-operative of credit.

Where the economic society falls short, the professional union takes up the task of fostering a professional spirit, and of devising as well as supporting measures for the general good. It aims to develop, not the tradesman merely, but the man.

On the work of students and technicians, on conferences of the *bourgeoisie*, such as the Belgian congresses of 1899 and 1901, is based much hope for the future. Movements of this nature lessen the chance of forgetting that “it is necessary to prepare men and things before introducing an institution.” Such steps as the creation of the office of *instructeurs corporatifs* by the Austrian minister of commerce, the Belgian experiment of a consumers' league for cash

payment, and the inauguration of the *prêt d'honneur* in Italy — not a charity but, in the words of one of its advocates, “the crowning of personal credit” — show hopeful earnestness in the search for a better way. But their future, after all, must be determined largely by the small industries themselves. For them, as for the great industry, there is opportunity in the machine. “The more delicate the work, the more intellectual, . . . the more the machine has need of the man,” the greater the chances of profit to decentralized labor. To perfect himself as well as his tools, to seize quickly upon special fields where his abilities will tell, even to make his own fields as is so often done by the great producer — these are the promising outlets for the small artisan.

Professor Brants believes that there is a territory lost to the small industry, a certain field better adapted to the small industry than to the large, and, between the two, a region where the struggle must be carried on indefinitely. He believes in legislative measures under certain conditions, in permanent instruction for the adult workman and the patron, in the duty of students and reformers to aid in rousing the artisan from his routine. He believes in competition without trickery and in co-operation for mechanical provision and commercial ends. He demands from the small artisan proof of his fitness to survive, a sign of his acknowledgment that it is even more imperative for the small industry than for the great to do well.

It will be seen that Professor Brants's monograph embodies a conservative view of the present status of the small industry in central Europe.

ELLA CAROLINE LAPHAM.

Wholesale and Retail Prices. Return to an Order of the Honorable the House of Commons, dated 6th August, 1903: — for “Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902, with Comparative Statistical Tables for a Series of Years.” London: Darling & Son, 1903. 8vo, pp. liii + 456.

THIS is an altogether admirable statistical account of price movements in the United Kingdom during the nineteenth century. It is stated that the tables “are for the most part of the nature of a compilation from the numerous statistics of prices contained in various official reports and papers published during the century, although in